

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Corn Borer Campaign Plans

A provisional program of the \$10,000,000 campaign for the control of the corn borer recently authorized by Congress was outlined on February 26 at a conference of representatives of five State departments of agriculture, of extension divisions of the State agricultural colleges, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, called by the Secretary of Agriculture. The act authorizing the campaign provides for control work in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. It is estimated that a corn acreage of 2,500,000 acres on between 300,000 and 400,000 farms in these States will be included in the clean-up.

The appropriation will become available as soon as necessary legislation now pending in the legislatures of the five States affected gives the State departments of agriculture the necessary powers of quarantine and compulsory clean-up required, together with authority to delegate such powers to the Federal workers employed under the act. When this State legislation has been passed, steps will be taken immediately to put the Federal regulatory organization in the field and begin the inspection of individual farms in control area. The inspectors will notify farmers of the necessary measures which they must take, according to the provisional regulations adopted by the conference of State and Federal workers.

These regulations require the burning or satisfactory destruction of all corn stalks, remnants of stalks and corn cobs either in the field, the feed lot, the barnyard or around canning factories and other process agents, unless ensiled or shredded.

The corn fields must either be plowed to such a depth that no stalks, pieces of cobs or other corn remnants appear on the surface when it is plowed, disced, harrowed, planted, or cultivated or, if not plowed, the fields must be cleared by pulverizing all corn remnants.

It is expected that individual farmers voluntarily cooperating in the clean-up, will take these necessary measures by May 1. Following May 1, all infested farms will be re-inspected. If reported as meeting all requirements as to control measures, the individual farmer will be reimbursed not to exceed \$2 an acre for field corn and not to exceed \$1 an acre for sweet corn on which he is obliged to undertake operations in addition to those normal and usual in farm operations at this season.

Where the regulations have not been complied with either intentionally or unintentionally, the federal regulatory force under the authority of the State department of agriculture will conduct the necessary clean-up with its own special machinery and crews. The farm cost of such enforced clean-up will be charged to the individuals on whose farms the work is done and will be collected on the same basis as taxes by the State authorities under the authority which the State legislation now pending will give them. The funds collected in this way by the State authorities which represents expenditure of Federal money will be turned over to the U. S. Treasury as provided for in the Federal Act and pending State legislation.

Prior to May 1, according to the provisional program the Federal forces will also give a large number of local field demonstrations in the selection and operation of machinery most effective in borer control work, as part of an intensive educational and publicity campaign to be put on in cooperation with the Department Extension Service, the extension divisions of the State agricultural colleges and county extension agents. This supplementary campaign will consist of holding educational field meetings, the organization of county and local committees in the interest of voluntary clean-up of the borer, supplying information to the press and other news agencies, and the distribution of educational material through the extension forces.

Short Courses for Cannors

The University of Wisconsin in cooperation with the Wisconsin Cannors' Association completed the third annual short course for cannors and cannors' field men on February 26th. The course covered three days of intensive instruction in vari-

ous lines of agriculture and crop production. The registration was about 170, and nearly 200 canners and their field men were in attendance.

On March 1-4 the third annual conference for canners' field men was held at Ithaca, New York, through cooperative arrangements with Cornell University and the Association of New York State Canners.

Definitions and Standards for Alimentary Pastes Adopted

Revised and amended definitions and standards for alimentary pastes have been adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture for the guidance of officials of the department in enforcing the Federal food and drugs act. The revised definitions and standards were recommended by the Food Standards Committee, which is composed of representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials of the United States, and of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.

Wholesale Trade in January

Trade of reporting wholesale firms continued to decline in January, and the Federal Reserve Board's combined index of sales of six leading lines reached the lowest level for January since 1922. Sales of meats, groceries dry goods, and hardware were smaller than in January of last year, while those of shoes and drugs were slightly larger. Nearly all sections of the country reported smaller sales of groceries, dry goods, and hardware than in January, 1926, but the largest declines were in the Atlanta, St. Louis, and Minneapolis Federal reserve districts.

Inventories of merchandise carried by wholesale firm engaged in leading lines increased in January in anticipation of the usual seasonal expansion in sales in the spring. Compared with a year ago, however, stocks in all leading lines except meats continued in smaller volume. Stocks of groceries were 10 per cent smaller for the country as a whole, and declines were reported in nearly all sections of the country.

Survey of Confectionery Distribution

The geographical distribution of wholesale confectionery sales and the methods of sale employed by the trade will be studied by the Department of Commerce under authorization of the appropriations Act of 1927-28, in which Congress has included a fund of \$10,000 for this purpose. The Department an-

nounces that this work will be performed under the direct supervision of the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Flexible Tariff Found Constitutional

In a decision delivered February 24 the United States Court of Customs Appeals found the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act of 1922 to be constitutional and a proper exercise of power by Congress.

An appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States may be taken, and this appeal will be facilitated by the fact that the United States Attorney General last October filed a certificate of importance on the case with the Court of Customs Appeals, which action automatically enables either of the contesting parties to carry the question before the United States Supreme Court.

The case decided originated under a proclamation by President Coolidge on May 19, 1924, in which the duty on barium dioxide was increased by 50 per cent, under the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act.

Carriers Withdraw Proposed Rate Changes

As the railroads have withdrawn and canceled schedules they had filed proposing changes in the rates on pickled and canned goods in mixed carloads from Colorado to Oklahoma, the Interstate Commerce Commission has discontinued the proceedings in this case and the rates remain as previous to the proposed changes.

The Commission has also discontinued the proceedings in the case involving rates and charges on canned goods from Gulf ports to Mississippi Valley territory, the carriers having canceled the schedules which proposed to make changes in these rates.

Duty on Frozen Herring

The United States Customs Court has overruled the protest of an importer who claimed that herring naturally frozen by the atmosphere as they are caught or on the ship as they are brought ashore are free of duty under Paragraph 1656 of the Tariff Act of 1922. The overruling of this contention was based upon a previous decision of the Court of Customs Appeal (T. D. 41876).

Domestic Exports of Canned Foods in January

	1926		1927	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,203,821	\$374,172	1,495,032	\$500,280
Beef	155,616	49,902	253,222	79,113
Sausage	314,710	90,480	385,795	118,850
Condensed milk	3,732,797	572,272	2,694,044	402,039
Evaporated milk	5,961,983	621,214	5,553,603	571,206
Canned vegetables, total ..	4,590,009	427,385	5,713,516	487,350
Canned fruits, total	20,735,427	2,164,838	24,238,541	2,303,511
Apricots	1,440,457	143,946	2,284,169	238,337
Peaches	8,463,063	822,898	6,097,013	567,266
Pears	5,594,435	694,569	7,759,792	739,445
Pineapples	2,436,291	247,102	3,497,602	355,515
Canned salmon	3,777,892	490,281	8,703,468	1,316,262
Canned sardines	7,352,994	623,063	6,802,776	576,778

Study of Commercial Sauerkraut

The Journal of Agricultural Research for January contains an interesting article entitled "Studies of Commercial Sauerkraut with Special Reference to Changes in the Bacterial Flora During Fermentation at Low Temperatures," by Lillian A. Priem, W. H. Peterson, and E. B. Fred, of the University of Wisconsin.

Canned Meat Production in 1925

The Census Bureau has just issued its report on the output of the wholesale slaughtering and meat-packing industry in 1925, which shows that during that year the industry produced 118,576,431 pounds of canned meat and canned sausage valued at \$24,334,065. This is an increase of 24.6 per cent in volume and 23.5 per cent in value over the output in 1923, which amounted to 95,133,635 pounds valued at \$19,703,137.

Freight Loadings

Revenue freight loadings for the week ended February 19 totaled 960,873 cars, an increase of 28,592 cars over the corresponding week last year and 34,987 cars more than the corresponding week in 1925. As compared with the week of February 12, however, the loadings were 7,444 cars less.

Australian Canned Fruit Export Regulations

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has received from the American trade commissioner at Sidney a

copy of the amendment to the commerce regulations of Australia with regard to the standards and quality of fruits for export.

Paragraph 2 of the amendment reads as follows:

Regulation 8 is amended by inserting after paragraph (j) the following paragraphs:

- (k) Each can or container of canned fruits of "Second quality in sirup" shall have embossed on the top the word "Seconds."
- (l) Each can or container of canned fruits of "Second quality in water" shall have embossed on the top the words "Seconds Without Added Sugar."
- (m) Each can or container of canned fruits of pie quality shall have embossed on the top the word "Pie."
- (n) No other marking or sticker or label or wrapping which will wholly or partly obscure or divert attention from the embossing shall be placed on or about the top of a can or container of second or pie quality fruit.
- (o) Nothing contained in these regulations shall prevent the printing of factory can marks in ink or the embossing on the top of the can or container.

Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 deal with color, size, and degree of ripeness of the fruit; paragraph 7 deals with sanitation. A complete copy of the amendment is available for loan to interested American firms upon request to the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Milk Powder and Condensed Milk Replacing Whole Milk

Milk powder and condensed milk are replacing whole milk and evaporated milk in the manufacture of confectionery, ice cream, and bakery products, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced. The reason for the shift is that the concentrated products are easier to transport and store.

Figures collected by the bureau show that 56 manufacturers of milk chocolate used 171,542,708 pounds of whole milk last year as against 228,821,543 pounds used by 61 manufacturers in 1925. The quantity of evaporated milk used to manufacture milk chocolate last year was 2,912,639 pounds against 3,037,669 pounds in 1925, and of skim milk 26,689 pounds against 6,168,287 pounds.

Consumption of milk powders, on the other hand, shows an increase. The 65 manufacturers used 6,652,127 pounds of whole milk powder last year, as against 4,396,231 pounds used by 61 firms in 1925; of condensed milk there was used 5,499,095 pounds against 4,369,769 pounds, and skim milk powder 3,270,577 pounds against 1,437,810 pounds.

Canned Fish From Spain

The growing importance of the Vigo district of Spain as a source of supply for American buyers of canned fish products is indicated by the statistics of the exports from that district to the United States during the past year. Exports of sardines in oil to the United States amounted to 557,586 pounds valued at \$82,537, as compared with 318,284 pounds valued at \$48,080 in 1925. Exports of other fish in oil in 1926 total 400,051 pounds valued at \$109,856, as compared with 300,349 pounds valued at \$91,108 in 1925. Exports from Vigo to Porto Rico increased in still greater proportion, but the shipments to the Philippines showed a decline.

Canned Pimientos From Spain

An important item of export from the Valencia district, Spain, to the United States for 1926 consisted of 3,208,764 pounds of canned pimientos, valued at \$335,801. A considerable decline in this item of export will be noted when compared with the previous year when 4,463,008 pounds, valued at \$436,574, were exported to the United States.

Pure-Food Law Enforcement in England

A report from the American trade commissioner at London calls attention to an item published in the January 15 issue of the "Grocer and Oil Trade Review," in which it is stated that a grocer of Belfast, Ireland, was tried for having sold raspberry jam which contained 80 per cent of fruit juice other than raspberry. The product was labeled "Our preserves are made on the most approved methods and are improved by the judicious use of pure juice of other fruit." In addition the product was labeled "Special Raspberry Jam." The defendant contended that the word "Special" meant a quality lower than first-class and not higher. The defendant's conditions were not upheld, and a fine of 5 pounds sterling and costs was imposed.

With the passage of the new pure-food laws in England, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce states, it ap-

pears probable that the English courts will follow along the same lines of reasoning as has been done in this country in connection with the violation of the Foods and Drugs Act.

Per Capita Meat Consumption

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has published a summary of the meat situation in 1926 showing that the per capita consumption of meats fell from 143.6 pounds in 1925 to 142.8 pounds in 1926. The per capita beef consumption was 63.4 pounds, an increase of 1.3 pounds over 1925, while the consumption of mutton and lamb was 5.5 pounds as compared with 5.2 pounds. On the other hand, there were decreases in the per capita consumption of veal and pork. Veal consumption was 8.2 pounds as compared with 8.7 pounds in 1925, and the pork consumption was 65.7 pounds as compared with 67.6 pounds in the earlier year.